

Defined

The International Fire Code (IFC) requires fire protection and life safety systems to be tested at periodic intervals. The periodic testing of these systems is called confidence testing.

Confidence testing helps ensure the systems function as they were initially designed and installed. Confidence testing is separate from the fire and life safety inspections conducted by the Fire Department.

Responsibility

It's the system owner's responsibility to have the fire protection and life safety systems tested at the required intervals.

When a fire protection and life safety system is found to have a defect or is in need of repair, the system owner is required to have repairs made to ensure the systems are maintained in an operable condition at all times.

Qualifications

Confidence testing of the fire protection and life safety systems is performed by personnel who are registered, licensed, or certified to install, service, or test the systems. Evidence of such qualifications shall be available to the fire code official upon request.

Testing Requirements

Confidence testing of fire protection and life safety systems must be in accordance with the International Fire Code (IFC), or their referenced standard.

The personnel testing or servicing the fire protection and life safety systems should be familiar with the applicable codes or referenced standards for each system type.

Testing Intervals

Fire protection and life safety systems have many components and the testing intervals vary for each system type. The "Systems Table" identifies the system type, minimum

test intervals and referenced standard. The applicable NFPA standards should be reviewed for additional testing requirements and schedules.

Systems Table

System Type	Referenced Standard	Test Intervals
Fire Alarm	NFPA 72	Annual
Fire Pumps	NFPA 25	Annual
Standpipe and/or Hose Cabinets	NFPA 25	Five Years
Automatic Sprinklers	NFPA 25	Annual
Shaft Pressurization	NFPA 92A	Annual
Emergency Generator	NFPA 110	Annual
Smoke Removal	NFPA 204	Annual
Foam Systems	NFPA 16	Annual & Five Years
Portable Fire Extinguishers	NFPA 10	Annual
Halon 1301 systems	NFPA 12A	Annual
Rangehood (Wet Chemical)	NFPA 17A	Semi-Annual
800 MHz Building Radio System	NFPA 1221	Annual & Five Years
Carbon Dioxide systems	NFPA 12	Annual
Clean Agent systems (FM 200, Inergen, Sapphire)	NFPA 2001	Annual
Dry Chemical systems	NFPA 17	Annual
Water-mist systems	NFPA 750	Annual
Private Fire Hydrants	NFPA 25	Annual
Construction Ratings / Fire Doors	NFPA 80	Annual

Records

Records of all system inspections, tests, and maintenance required by the referenced standards shall be maintained on the premises for a minimum of three years and available to the fire code official upon request.

Approved forms for system inspections, tests, and maintenance are available at the Bellevue Fire Department web site: www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/fire_prevention_forms.htm

